



“Building Communities Together”

A Networking Tool of HUD's Center for Community and Interfaith Partnerships

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PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES HELP FOR 330,000 HOMELESS

December 23, 1998, Baltimore, MD — President Clinton announced \$850 million in grants to help more than 330,000 homeless Americans move from homelessness to self-sufficiency. The awards will go to over 300 communities in all 50 states and territories and over 1,000 non-profit organizations.

A total of \$700 million of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Continuum of Care assistance is targeted to 1,420 long-term programs around the country to help individuals and families permanently end their homeless status. These programs provide transitional and permanent housing assistance and help people overcome problems that can lead to homelessness, such as a lack of basic education and job skills, mental illness and drug addiction. The remaining \$150 million in grants are for emergency shelter programs that provide food and shelter on a short-term basis. Emergency Shelter projects are selected by States and cities that receive the funding from HUD.

“Every homeless person has a story of enormous personal tragedy and incredible hardship,” Cuomo said. “Helping these men, women and children rebuild their lives isn’t easy, but it’s one of the most important investments we can make. It’s an investment that says America is the land of opportunity not just for some of us, but for all us.”

The President’s proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2000 will call for a record

\$1.125 billion in funding for HUD programs for homeless Americans, including: \$1.025 billion for the same type of grants announced today and \$100 million in rental assistance vouchers under the Section 8 program to enable 18,000 homeless individuals and families to live in subsidized apartments.

“The President’s policies recognize that if we give homeless people the help they need, they can overcome their problems and work their way out of poverty,” Cuomo said.

This announcement comes one week after the release of the The U.S. Conference of Mayors’ Annual Survey on Hunger and Homelessness. The Mayors’ survey of 30 cities cites substance abuse problems, mental illness, and the shortage of affordable housing as the three leading causes of homelessness. It points to an average increase in demand for emergency shelter of 11 percent across the cities surveyed, although more than half of the cities stated that there was no unmet demand for emergency shelter.

Many of the surveyed cities have benefited from significant new resources provided under the Clinton Administration’s Continuum of Care policy. According to the survey, there has been a 17 percent increase in transitional housing for homeless families and a 7 percent increase in Single Room Occupancy housing over the past year.

Holiday Greetings

This season is special, because more than any other time of the year, Americans have a heightened awareness of the needs of the poor. The ringing of the Salvation Army bell is a powerful reminder that the booming economy has not reached everyone. While many celebrate by sharing special meals and exchanging gifts with family and friends, many are still having trouble escaping poverty, feeding their families, and finding affordable housing.

Your efforts as community and faith-based groups in neighborhoods across the country offer all a sense of hope. They remind us that the true spirit of the holiday season endures after the last tree is taken down, the last menorah safely stored, and last gift is opened. Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Ramadan or Kwanza, may your God bless you this holiday season and throughout the New Year.

“For I know well the plans I have in mind for you” says Yahweh, “plans for your welfare not for your curse! I have to give you a future - a future full of hope.” - Jeremiah 29: 11-13.

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HUD's Helping Grassroots Groups Use Aid More Effectively

On November 23, 1998 at HUD's new Washington, DC Storefront Office, HUD's Center for Community and Interfaith Partnerships and Office of Community Planning and Development hosted a dialogue "*Celebrating Successes and Exploring the Future of Capacity Building*" with technical assistance providers serving communities across the country. During the event, HUD awarded \$82.4 million to 88 organizations to provide training and advice to help grassroots groups more effectively use HUD assistance.

"These grants will help empower people in communities across our nation to find solutions to local problems," Secretary Cuomo said. "Instead of trying to come up with one-size-fits-all programs for communities of all shapes and sizes, we want to help groups tailor our programs to meet each community's individual needs."

Leaders of the organizations present at the meeting offered their perspectives on how technical assistance providers and HUD can work as partners to make sure their expertise and advice reaches a broader range of

grassroots groups. Grantees and HUD officials – led by the Center's Director Fr. Joe Hacala and Assistant Secretary Cardell Cooper – agreed to work together to create a stronger network. As a first step, the Center and CPD will convene a meeting of all 88 technical assistance providers funded by HUD. Additionally, HUD will create a master list of providers, share the list with HUD's Community Builders, and post it on HUD's Home Page so that community groups everywhere can access it.

The technical assistance will be available to local non-profits, local and state governments and other groups who have received or are seeking HUD funds to improve or implement initiatives using HUD assistance. This technical assistance will focus on improving the local performance of four HUD programs: CDBG, HOME, Supportive Housing, and CHDO. The assistance is administered through HUD's field offices. To learn about opportunities to receive technical assistance funded by these grants, local groups should contact the HUD field office in their area.

Important Resources

We have an opportunity for you to connect with businesses willing to hire and retain welfare recipients. ***The Welfare to Work Partnership*** is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to organizing the American business community around hiring and retaining welfare recipients without displacing existing workers. To date they have a national network of more than 6,500 Business Partners to do just that.

The Partnership is developing an online database of organizations that will allow businesses to search for Welfare-to-Work service providers in their area.

Being represented on this database will afford your organization a number of valuable opportunities including: exposure to businesses in your area; linkage to a national network; and weekly news updates regarding hiring and training models.

If you are interested in completing a survey and becoming part of a crucial national network of service providers for welfare recipients, please contact Mr. Errol James at The Partnership, 202/955-3005 ext. 304 or Heidi Chapman at the Center, 202/708-2404 or 1-800-308-0395.

Featured Best Practice

The **City of Quincy, Massachusetts** identified the need to develop and implement a plan to provide expanded services for its homeless population as part of its Consolidated Plan. Through this recognition it created a local board on homelessness. In 1995, this group became the focal point for an effective Continuum of Care dedicated to filling gaps, providing a coordinated and non-duplicative approach, and integrating homeless persons back into the community through a broad range of services and assistance.

Quincy's Continuum of Care programs are linked, whenever possible, to the community network of service delivery and housing. Quincy has built its continuum of care within the community delivery system itself, stressing the need for housing to match the existing network of services. Quincy, along with the **Quincy Interfaith Sheltering Coalition** and other nonprofit agencies, has developed a process that is unique for a mid-size city. This Continuum has yielded a wide variety of emergency, transitional, permanent housing options along with a comprehensive menu of supportive services.

The Center for Community and Interfaith Partnerships acknowledged this best practice during a recent visit to Quincy where the Center participated in a dialogue with the city and its continuum of care partners.

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HUD Contact: Linda Ellenbogen, MA State Office, phone: 617-565-5375 fax: 617-565-5442.

This information has been edited from the John J. Gunther Best Practices Database on HUD's web site at www.hud.gov/ptw/docs/mall.html. The home page for the database is www.hud.gov/ptw/rehabilitation.html.